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STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES & ENERGY
Oil, Gas & Mining

Scott M. Matheson, Governor
Temple A. Reynolds, Executive Director
Cleon B. Feight, Division Director

4241 State Office Building • Salt Lake City, UT 84114 • 801-533-5771

October 29, 1982

Mr. Floyd J. Tucker
General Manager
Plateau Mining Company
P. O. Drawer PMC
Price, Utah 84501

Attention: Mr. Mel Coonrod

RE: Review of Corner Canyon
Breakout Permit Application
Star Point Mines
ACT/007/006
Carbon County, Utah

Dear Mr. Tucker:

The Division has completed its review of Plateau Mining Company's recent permit application for the Corner Canyon Breakout modification. Several deficiencies have been noted and these are detailed in the review document enclosed with this letter. The Division cannot approve this application until the concerns are addressed.

The Office of Surface Mining (OSM) has reviewed the proposal and their comments will be forwarded upon our receipt. The U. S. Forest Service (USFS) comments are enclosed. We have not received official written comment from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as of this date.

However, through phone conversations on October 28 with the local USFWS office, the Division was informed of their concern regarding the possible occurrence of Hedysarum occidentale var. canone in the proposed Corner Canyon Breakout area.

Mr. Bob Thompson of the USFS was also contacted by the Division. He stated that his field surveys of the Corner Canyon site and surrounding area had failed to locate this plant. The USFWS has given verbal concurrence with the USFS determination as of October 28, 1982.

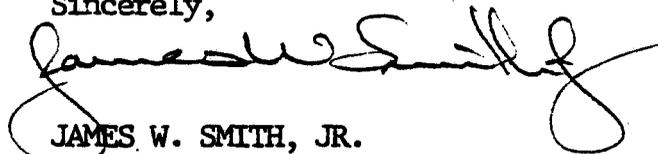
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The Division is somewhat concerned with the content of this submittal. Plateau has prepared several proposals in the past which have been well detailed and exhibited compliance with the applicable coal regulations and performance standards. This submittal appears to have included adequate baseline data; however, a specific detailed description of just what is planned, how it will be accomplished and how the plans will comply with the performance standards is not readily discernible.

We are cognizant of the urgency in permitting this modification and we will do whatever we can to try to accommodate your projected time frames. However, we do need to have an adequate response to the items outlined in the enclosed document prior to approval for this modification.

If you have any questions with regard to this review, please contact us.

Sincerely,



JAMES W. SMITH, JR.
COORDINATOR OF MINED
LAND DEVELOPMENT

JWS/DWH:btb

Enclosures

cc: Floyd Johnson, OSM
Reed Christensen, USFS
Clark Johnson, USFWS
Joe Helfrich, DOGM
Tom Portle, DOGM
Pam Grubaugh-Littig, DOGM
Lynn Kunzler, DOGM

VEGETATION COMMENTS

Plateau Mining Company, Corner Canyon Breakout

783.19 - Vegetation Information-LK

1. As per UMC 771.23 (b) "Information ... shall be ... presented clearly and concisely, and supported by appropriate ... technical ... material," the vegetation report does not meet any standard of clear or concise. Field data sheets do not support the summaries of the various parameters that were measured. Many errors are apparent in even the simplest of mathematical calculations. Figures reported on one page were not necessarily those reported elsewhere for the same parameter (nor could differences be attributed to "rounding of figures").

It is highly recommended that a meeting be set up with the company to go over the report and then, before it will be accepted, the company will need to redo the report to make it clear and concise.

2. As per UMC 771.23(c), the company needs to supply the names of persons or organizations which collected and analyzed the data.
3. A species list needs to be provided for the vegetation types that will be effected.
4. Concluding comment: As presented, this report is not acceptable in meeting the requirements of UMC 783.19, the information required is probably in the report (but as presented, is well disguised)

UMC 783.27 Prime Farmland Investigation-TLP

The applicant has failed to provide a letter of negative determination from the Soil Conservation Service for the area of proposed disturbance.

UMC 784.11 Operation Plan: General Requirements-DWH/PGL/TLP

A narrative description of the proposed methods to be employed for actual construction of the breakout and associated surface facilities is necessary. The present proposal is quite vague and lacking in specific detail. The description should include an explanation of what equipment will be used to facilitate construction, protection measures for encroachment on the stream, transmission of powers to the fan, etc.

(b) A narrative explaining the removal of the facility is required.

(b)(2) The applicant has failed to indicate the location of any topsoil storage area. Please provide a map showing such locations.

UMC 784.13 Reclamation Plan: General Requirements-PGL/TLP/LK

(b)(2) A detailed cost estimate of the reclamation of the proposed operation (modification in this case) is needed along with supporting calculations for the estimates. This would also fulfill the requirements for 800.11.

(b)(3) No plan has been provided to address the backfilling and grading of the site of operations. While soils data has been provided in the "Permit Application" it has not been incorporated into a plan addressing the means and depth of topsoil removal and the depth of replacement. Please discuss topsoil storage and protection.

(b)(5)(vii) A plan for topsoil testing after redistribution aimed at identifying any fertility problems should be submitted.

It is assumed that access to this area is via the mine (no surface roads), the revegetation techniques approved in the mine plan are not appropriate for this area. The company will need to provide detailed revegetation plans (as per UMC 784.13[5]) which is adequate to meet the requirements of UMC 817.111-817.117.

At a minimum, these plans should include:

1. A schedule of revegetation.
2. Species and amounts per acre (in terms of pure live seed) of seeds and/or seedlings to be used. Justification for any introduced species will need to be provided as per UMC 817.112.
3. Methods to be used in planting and seeding.
4. Mulching techniques (including type of mulch, rate of application, and how it will be anchored).
5. Irrigation, if appropriate, and pest and disease control measures, if any.

UMC 784.23 Operation Plan: Maps and Plans-PGL

The applicant should include a map of the area of the land to be affected within the mine plan area.

UMC 817.15 Casing and Sealing of Underground Openings-DWH

The proposal has not addressed the permanent means by which the portals will be sealed. Please provide the measures which will be undertaken to provide for permanent closure and reclamation of the breakouts.

UMC 817.22 Topsoil: Removal-TLP

To what depth will topsoil be removed from each soil type? Will topsoil and subsoil be removed in separate lifts? If not, please provide rationale. What equipment and methods will be employed in topsoil removal activities.

UMC 817.23 Topsoil: Storage-TLP

The application provides no narrative discussing the storage and protection of topsoil. More specifically:

1. What is the anticipated volume of soil to be stored?
2. What is the anticipated depth of the topsoil storage stockpile(s)?
3. What will be the probable dimension(s) of the stockpile(s)?
4. What is the slope of the stockpile expected to be?
5. What measures will be employed to protect the topsoil stockpile? Please provide information regarding the seed mix, the seed rate, type of mulch to be used and rate of application or any other measure to be employed. How will the stockpile be protected from surface drainage?

UMC 817.24 Topsoil: Redistribution-TLP

(a) The applicant should address measures designed to eliminate slippage surfaces in the topsoil redistribution procedures. What will be the depth to which the topsoil is applied?

(b) What will be done to protect the redistributed topsoil from loss due to wind and water erosion after redistribution both prior to seeding and until the establishment of a successful stand of vegetation?

What equipment will be utilized in redistribution operations?

UMC 817.42 Water Quality and Effluent Limitations-DWH

Is the proposed settling basin designed to provide for total containment of all surface runoff from the disturbed area? If not, what means will be utilized to insure that discharges from this structure will meet applicable effluent limitations.

UMC 817.43 Diversions and Conveyance of Overland Flow-DWH

What were the sizing criteria used in the design of the "clear-water" diversion ditch proposed for the portal pad? How large of a drainage area will the ditch be designed for?

UMC 817.47 Discharge Structures-DWH

The detail of the proposed riprapped discharge channel as depicted on Map No. 1 to control the drainage from the clear-water ditch is rather vague.

How extensive will it be and where will it ultimately discharge? The design for this structure should relate to the general design information referred to previously under UMC 817.43.

UMC 817.50 Underground Mine Entry and Access Discharges-DWH

What are the operator's plans for handling interception of any ground water which may be produced? What is the general dip of the coal in the vicinity of the proposed breakouts? Is it toward or away from the portals?

Any discharges which may become necessary must have a NPDES discharge permit and comply with all applicable effluent limitations.

UMC 817.57 Stream Buffer Zones-DWH

If the effected area of the breakout will encroach within 100 feet of the intermittent stream, then a variance should be requested from the Division. Protective measures to be implemented by the operator for the stream should be detailed as well.

UMC 817.160 Roads: Class II: General-PGL

This section should be addressed in the modification plans if it is applicable. It seems likely that roads will be required for access to the ventilation facility, however, this is not mentioned in the narrative. Please clarify.

FOREST SERVICE

Manti-LaSal National Forest
599 West Price River Drive
Price, Utah 84501

File ACT/007/006
Copy to ~~_____~~
2820 Wayne

September 23, 1982

JIM

OCT 01 1982



Shirley Lindsay
OSM - Reclamation and Enforcement
Brooks Towers - 1020 15th Street
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Ms. Lindsay:

The attached ~~_____~~
is concurrence by the Forest Service ~~_____~~
~~_____~~. The management requirements on pages 1 and 2
must be followed.

If there are any questions, please contact us.

Sincerely,

W. H. Boley

for
REED C. CHRISTENSEN
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

DECISION NOTICE AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Plateau Mining Company, a subsidiary of Getty Mining Company, has submitted a proposal for construction of a set of ventilation breakouts in the South Fork of Corner Canyon on the Manti-LaSal National Forest in Section 12, T15S,R7E, SLM, Emery County, Utah (see Fig. 1). The present proposal for the Corner Canyon location is submitted as a revision to Plateau's previously approved group of breakouts in Seeley Canyon, approximately 3500 feet to the east. This revision was required because of unanticipated mining conditions encountered on approach to Seeley Canyon. Mine development in this area encountered burned coal at an approximate distance of 1000 ft. from the outcrop. Crossing this extensive burned area to construct the breakouts would have involved extremely hazardous mining conditions and would have required significant additional expense. As a result of additional study Plateau determined that the Corner Canyon location could provide adequate ventilation capacity and eliminate the need for breakouts in Seeley Canyon. In both cases, the breakouts are proposed to provide additional ventilation for Plateau's present mining in this area and for anticipated future mining in adjacent reserves.

A set of five entries will be driven outward parallel to the present main entries to construct the breakouts. These entries will be constructed on 80 ft. centers by room-and-pillar mining using continuous miners. All construction will be from underground. Once the breakouts are constructed a deck area will be prepared and a return ventilation fan will be installed at the No. 5 (northernmost) entry. The fan and associated facilities will occupy an approximate 50X100 ft. area immediately outside this breakout. The four remaining breakouts will be used for intake ventilation. No surface access will be required for either construction of the breakouts or installation of the ventilation fan. Plateau's proposal describes the breakout construction, fan installation and other pertinent factors in greater detail.

The affected environment of the area has been described in numerous previous environmental assessments prepared to evaluate coal leasing, coal exploration and similar breakouts in this vicinity. Further discussion of the affected environment is not necessary, however, because the proposed breakouts will not create any significant impacts. Any impacts that would result can be mitigated or eventually reclaimed upon the completion of mining or abandonment of these breakouts.

Several Forest Service management concerns were identified by the ID Team in preparation of this environmental assessment:

1. Identification and protection of any paleontological or archeological resources that may exist at the breakout locations.
2. Prevention of unnecessary surface disturbance and unnecessary impacts to other resources.

3. Proper reclamation of the breakouts and disturbed areas.

These concerns and any related resource impacts will be eliminated or effectively mitigated by adherence to the following surface management requirements.

1. Cultural resources clearance must be obtained prior to construction of the breakouts and ventilation facilities.
2. The breakouts will be constructed entirely from underground by continuing the existing mine workings. Suitable roof support measures will be implemented to prevent escarpment failure during and after construction of the breakouts.
3. All personnel access and transportation of construction and ventilation equipment or other materials to and from the location will be from underground or by helicopter. No surface access by motorized vehicles or equipment will be permitted.
4. Any surface disturbance for construction and installation of the ventilation fan will be confined to the minimum area reasonably necessary for installation of this facility.
5. All refuse, construction waste and other debris will be transported back through the breakout entries and properly disposed of. No earth materials or other construction debris will be cast downslope from the breakout location.
6. When completed, the breakouts will be fenced to preclude surface access.
7. All disturbed areas will be reseeded with the following seed mixture at a rate of 20 lbs/acre.

3 lbs	Smooth Brome
3 lbs	Timothy
2 lbs	Intermediate wheatgrass
1 lb	Kentucky bluegrass
1 lb	Ranger Alfalfa
8. Upon completion of mining or abandonment of these facilities the ventilation fan and associated equipment will be removed and the disturbed areas recontoured and reseeded as directed above. The individual entries will be permanently sealed to surface access in compliance with the requirements of the responsible Federal agencies.

The only alternatives to the proposed action are disapproval of the proposed breakouts (the "No Action" alternative) or relocation of the breakouts to a more suitable site. Since, the breakouts can be constructed at the proposed location without creating any significant adverse impacts, there is no justification for disapproving or relocating the facilities. Neither of these alternatives, therefore, is considered to be viable.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the responsible Forest Service official has determined, through the environmental assessment process, that construction of the breakouts and ventilation fan will not create any significant impacts to the human environment. An environmental statement, therefore, will not be required. As a result of the environmental assessment the responsible official has also decided to approve the proposed project subject to the specified management requirements.

Copies of Plateau's proposal, previous environmental assessments and other pertinent documents are on file and available for review at the Price Ranger District Office, 10 N. Carbon Avenue, Price, Utah 84501. Implementation of the proposed action may take place immediately upon approval.

Responsible Official:



Forest Supervisor

9/23/82

Date

